

Date: May 11, 1994 BQC #94-032  
To: Hospitals HOSP 11  
From: Judy Fryback, Director  
Bureau of Quality Compliance  
Subject: Division of Health Standards and Quality Regional Program Letter No. 94-10 on  
Communicable Diseases such as TB

Enclosed is a copy of Health Care Financing Administration, Division of Health Standards and Quality Regional Program Letter No. 94-10. The purpose of this letter is to transmit to you and inform you of the interpretive guidelines related to infection control policies. A greater emphasis is being placed on identifying, investigating, reporting and preventing communicable diseases (such as TB) among patients and health care workers.

These guidelines also place the language previously under Tag A245, which deals with the evaluation of the infection control program, under Tag A243. Tag A245 now contains guidelines which evaluate the responsibilities of the Infection Control Officer(s).

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. Direct any questions you may have to Tom Haupt, Hospital and Health Services Section, Bureau of Quality Compliance at (608) 267-1445 or Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Hospital and Health Services Section at (608) 266-3878.

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Enclosure

cc: -BQC Staff  
-Office of Legal Counsel  
-Ann Haney, DOH Admin.  
-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.  
-HCFA, Region V  
-Illinois State Agency  
-Ohio State Agency  
-Michigan State Agency  
-Indiana State Agency  
-Minnesota State Agency  
-WI Coalition for Advocacy  
-Serv. Employees Intn'l Union  
-WI Counties Assn.  
-WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging  
-Mark Bunge, BPH  
-Renal Dialysis Network-WI Health  
Care Association  
-WI Assn. of Medical Directors  
-Admin., Division of Care and  
Treatment Facilities  
-WI Assn. of Hospital SW and  
Discharge Planners  
-Bureau of DD Services  
-WI Hospital Association  
-Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers

Refer to: CR14

March 1994

**Division of Health Standards and Quality Regional Program Letter No. 94-10**

**Subject: Infection Control Condition of Participation (COP) – Additional Guidance to Surveyors to Reflect the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Tuberculosis Control**

The purpose of this program letter is to transmit the enclosed interpretive guidelines related to increased emphasis on infection control policies to identify, investigate, report and prevent communicable diseases (especially TB) among patients and health care workers.

In October 1993, the CDC issued the second edition of Draft Guidelines for Preventing the transmission of Tuberculosis in Health Care Facilities. Due to the concern over the increase in Tuberculosis (TB) cases, the emergence of Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) and newly vulnerable patient populations (i.e., AIDS), the need for strong hospital infection control policies is more urgent than ever.

The Medicare hospital COP at 42 CFR 484.42, 482.42(a), and 482.42(a)(1) states the following:

The hospital must provide a sanitary environment to avoid sources and transmission of infections and communicable diseases. There must be an active program for the prevention, control, and investigation of infections and communicable diseases. A person or persons must be designated as infection control officer or officers to develop and implement policies governing control of infections and communicable diseases. The infection control officer or officers must develop a system for identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases of patients and personnel.

Enclosed is a draft manual issuance of the interpretive guidelines for hospitals at 42 CFR 482.42—data tags A243, A244, A245 and A246.

The revised guidance increases emphasis on infection control policies to identify, investigate report and prevent communicable diseases (especially TB) among patients and health care workers. The interpretive guidelines concerning the evaluation of the infection control program previously found under Tag number A245 are now found under Tag number A243. Tag number A245 now contains guidelines for evaluating only the responsibilities of the infection control officer. We are currently in the process of revising the hospital interpretive guidelines, and this information will be included in the final issuance.

In order to assure consistent application of the regulations across our region, please share this information with appropriate staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Gwendolyn Michel at (312) 886-5211 for Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio or Sally Jo Wieling at (312) 353-8853 for Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

/s/ Sally Jo Wieling  
Acting Branch Chief  
Survey & Certification Operations Branch  
Division of Health Standards & Quality

Enclosure